



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 24, 2006
Week Ending: April 23, 2006
CWP WA-CW1706

Sunny Weather Increased Fieldwork and Hay Stocks Continued to Decline

Field Crops

Number of days suitable for fieldwork increased this week as the rain stopped and the days were warm and sunny. Winter wheat and spring wheat conditions were mostly fair to excellent. Douglas County reported that snow mold damage to winter wheat was becoming apparent as the weather warmed up. Potato planting continued. Oyster harvesting was in full swing with lower production reported in certain areas of Willapa Bay. Fruit was in bloom, including apples, raspberries, strawberries, cherries, pears, and blueberries. Asparagus harvest was in full swing and daffodil and tulip harvest continued.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% poor, 60% fair, 36% good, and 3% excellent. Pastures continued to green up but some were still too wet to use. Availability of hay was scarce causing some producers to release cattle to pastures before they were ready. Supplemental feeding continued as hay stocks declined.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.0
Last Week	3.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	0	84	16
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	15	78	6
Subsoil	2	9	84	5
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	26	66	2
Irrigation Water	0	0	97	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	11	86	0
Hay & Roughage	15	28	56	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	53	45	92	82
Spring Wheat Emerged	34	28	53	47
Winter Wheat Headed	1	NA	3	1
Barley Planted	43	30	70	68
Barley Emerged	24	15	37	35
Potatoes Planted	65	45	76	58
Potatoes Emerged	4	3	15	20
Corn Planted	15	5	19	26
Dry Edible Beans Planted	17	13	23	21
Proc. Green Peas Planted	65	45	80	62
Dry Peas Planted	21	19	45	44

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	3	16	64	16
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	6	92	2
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	57	40	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	34	42	24
Potatoes	0	0	16	84	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Garden Center owners in the Vancouver area enjoyed brisk sales on the first really nice weekend. Woodies, bedding plants, and vegetable starts were all in great demand!

Grays Harbor: A week with limited rainfall expedited field activity as growers raced to make up for lost time. Vegetable growers were cultivating fields in preparation for May planting. Christmas tree growers continued applying herbicides and fertilizer to plantations. Dairy producers were making the first forage harvest. Home gardeners took advantage of the sunny days to plant early season vegetables.

Mason: Just a trace of precipitation was received during the week. The weather lent itself to spraying, fertilizing, and mowing. Pastures were prepared for summer with harrowing, fertilizing, and cross fencing for rotational grazing. Cattle were out on pastures. There was intermittent light frost at night, depending on the cloud cover, so it was marginal weather for tender plants.

Pacific: Producers rejoiced over the warmer, drier spring conditions. Soil tilling and other pasture management activities were underway. Cranberry growers continued weed control and bog dike repair work. Oyster harvesting and processing was in full swing, with higher wholesale prices for shucked and half shell oysters. Some producers reported lower production of oysters in certain areas of Willapa Bay.

Pierce/S. King: Fields were still too wet in some areas to work. In other areas of the South Puget Sound, fields were

drying out. Hail and frost went through the area and may have caused some crop damage.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was mild. Showers were received, although by Friday fields were dry enough to begin fieldwork.

Snohomish/N. King: The weather was mostly good with a couple of days of rain and a few frosty nights. Plowing and other fieldwork progressed at full speed. Pasture grew well with the warming weather. Apples, pears, and blueberries were in bloom. Home gardeners worked soil and attended plant sales.

Thurston: The distant hum of tractors could be heard echoing across the rural landscape as growers raced to plow fields in preparation for May planting. Wet field conditions have put most growers behind schedule. Many growers have been working extended hours in order to catch up. Christmas tree growers took advantage of the lack of rainfall in order to apply selective, foliar applied herbicides. Strawberry growers were tilling fields and applying residual herbicides to establish plantings. Dairy producers turned cattle onto forage fields to take advantage of the rapid growth. Commercial peony growers were fertilizing newly planted fields. Daffodil and tulip cut flower harvest continued with growers welcoming the cool temperatures which were resulting in a prolonged harvest.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Cool weather conditions and wind continued. Frost protection measures were being implemented by fruit producers. Livestock producers continued to release cattle into spring pastures, even though some forage may not be ready. The availability of hay was scarce. Snow mold damage to the winter wheat was becoming more apparent as the weather began to warm up.

Franklin: The weather was good, and the temperatures were rising.

Franklin (2nd Report): The trend for weekend showers continued. Potato planting continued. Asparagus harvest was in full swing. All orchard trees were in some stage of flowering with cherries and stone fruit trees in the latter stages. Many apples were in full bloom. Fieldwork picked up dramatically throughout the county. Weather for most of the week was overcast to clear and sunny with several days of above normal temperatures. Nights and early mornings were cold with no heavy frosts. Weather-wise the week was good for farming.

Grant: Spring fieldwork activities continued. Warmer temperatures were needed for crop growth. Potato planting continued. Dryland winter wheat acreage was in great shape as were pasture and range conditions.

Okanogan/Ferry: Cool, windy conditions continued. Orchardists were still applying frost protection measures due to the low nightly temperatures. Cattlemen were releasing cattle to spring pastures even though most of the grass conditions were fair due to the cool weather. The availability of feed was scarce. Snow mold damage in winter wheat was becoming more apparent as the weather began to warm up.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 7 degrees below normal to 3 degrees above normal, with 0.01 of an inch of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat conditions continued to improve with warm days and an adequate supply of moisture. Broadleaf and grassy weed herbicide applications were nearly complete, and growers will begin looking for stripe rust if they planted a susceptible variety. Spring seeding was complete and mostly emerged.

Adams (2nd Report): It was a nice growing week for small grains, with most spring wheat now emerged and winter grains adding height. A mild frost mid-week was received, but temperatures were not low enough to damage fruits. One concern was the wind, which made completing spraying activities difficult.

Asotin/Garfield: After another good rain during the weekend, the weather cleared and farmers were able to get back into fields for planting spring crops and spraying winter wheat. Planting was at least two weeks behind normal in most areas. The higher elevations were still too wet to work. Rangeland conditions improved as the weather began to warm up.

Garfield: Recent alternating rains and snow followed by freezing or warm temperatures have 'confused' cereal crops. Wireworm damage to winter wheat and barley yellow dwarf virus vectored by bird cherry aphid was visible and measurable. Spring wheat was still small and emerging due to cold soils.

Lincoln: Winter wheat conditions continued to improve with warm days and an adequate moisture supply. Growers were in the midst of broadleaf and grassy weed herbicide applications on winter wheat and spring cereal seeding when the weather permitted.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Warm growing weather is needed to bring the crops along.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The sun shined and the wind blew the last couple of days of the week. Fieldwork began in the drier areas of the county. When the wind was not blowing, spraying was taking place to control grassy weeds in bluegrass seed fields. The no-till and minimum till growers

were spraying Round Up to kill green growth before seeding. Some of the stone fruits began to bloom late in the week. Pasture growth was looking pretty good but will need a couple more weeks before cattlemen turn out livestock for the summer. If the weather continues to hold, more fieldwork will take place. Diesel fuel was selling for \$3.13 a gallon, which will have an impact on the price of farm fuel.

Stevens: Rain let up during the week, allowing farmers to begin spring work, although some fields were still too wet to get on. Several area ranchers were branding calves. Winter wheat appeared to be in good condition and alfalfa and pasture grass began to grow with the warmer days.

Walla Walla: It was good to see some sunshine. Spring fieldwork was still way behind schedule. Some of the green pea growers were worried that it will be too late to seed. Dry pea and garbanzo growers were just getting started with seeding. Good soil moisture was making for good grain crops. Spring pastures were starting but coming on slowly. The warm weather during the week should give the pastures a real boost.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Spring crops were still being planted. Earlier frequent rain showers created significant delays in planting. The last few days of the week conditions were more favorable, which allowed many producers to catch up on spring seeding. Frequent winds were still causing delays with spraying. Winter crops looked good overall, however; some areas of the county did show damage from the February cold snap.

Whitman: The weather and crop conditions were slowly improving. The sun and drier conditions were very welcomed by farmers. Many farmers have been unable to get into fields for spring work.

Whitman (2nd Report): Drier conditions have returned to the Palouse, which helped get spring work started for the year. Wind continued to make it difficult to spray, but many operations were going full speed to get spring crops planted.

Weekly Weather Statistics

April 24, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	31	70	48	-2	1	-6	0	0	0.35	-0.28	2	28.43	-0.35	99	134
Everett	37	67	50	1	12	0	0	0	0.30	-0.33	2	26.99	-1.81	94	136
Hoquiam	33	74	49	-1	8	-6	0	0	0.20	-0.77	3	65.15	6.18	110	156
Kelso	30	75	50	0	12	-2	0	0	0.20	-0.56	2	36.87	-1.90	95	130
Olympia	28	74	47	-2	6	-1	0	0	0.10	-0.62	2	47.91	3.78	109	134
Sea-Tac	36	71	50	1	14	0	0	0	0.39	-0.11	1	32.41	0.78	102	128
Shelton	28	73	48	-3	6	-10	0	0	0.12	-0.75	1	65.07	7.25	113	139
Tacoma	30	72	48	-3	3	-11	0	0	0.02	-0.60	2	35.62	1.85	105	122
Vancouver	34	74	52	3	20	6	0	0	0.12	-0.50	3	37.68	2.97	109	129
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	29	73	49	2	9	-3	0	0	0.06	-0.08	1	9.98	2.89	141	72
Stampede Pass	28	62	44	9	2	2	0	0	0.39	-0.69	3	62.09	-7.92	89	138
Wenatchee	35	72	52	0	20	-6	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.37	-1.03	84	50
Yakima AP	25	72	48	-3	9	-12	0	0	0.01	-0.10	1	8.15	1.79	128	61
NORTHEAST															
Colville	25	69	47	-1	9	-1	0	0	0.06	-0.29	1	15.31	0.24	102	83
Deer Park	21	70	44	-3	2	-6	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	22.92	9.19	167	102
Spokane AP	27	69	47	0	7	0	0	0	0.02	-0.25	1	14.97	2.82	123	95
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	28	70	50	-3	17	-9	0	0	0.00	-0.07	0	8.25	2.68	148	63
Moses Lake	26	71	49	-4	12	-14	0	0	0.00	-0.07	0	9.50	3.93	171	72
Quincy	32	70	51	0	21	-3	1	1	0.00	-0.09	0	9.65	3.58	159	74
Ritzville	28	72	46	-3	6	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.17	0	12.75	4.04	146	83
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	33	73	53	-3	24	-21	0	-7	0.00	-0.07	0	4.59	-0.61	88	40
Pasco	28	75	52	-4	22	-17	0	-7	0.00	-0.07	0	7.60	1.76	130	63
Pullman	30	70	48	3	10	3	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	9.69	-6.42	60	86
Whitman Miss.	27	73	48	-4	9	-15	0	-2	0.01	-0.26	1	14.09	3.67	135	98
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	27	70	46	-3	7	-3	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	8.54	-10.74	44	72
Lewiston ID	35	74	52	1	25	-2	3	-4	0.00	-0.28	0	8.04	-0.10	99	71

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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